

VTE DE AFBAP

00 30/1730Z
FM AL HAIG
TO HENRY A. KISSINGER

DOS Review Completed.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EYES ONLY

Haig message

A-109

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

TOHAK 01

THANK YOU FOR TO HAIG 5 CONTAINING MESSAGE FROM OTHER SIDE. MESSAGE CERTAINLY CONFIRMS YOUR ANALYSIS OF THEIR INTENTIONS. THERE APPEARS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THAT HAVE STRUCTURED THEIR ENTIRE STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE DE FACTO CEASEFIRE IN PLACE AT THE END OF OCTOBER. MY INTENSIVE REVIEW SINCE DEPARTURE OF ALL CURRENT AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE ON BATTLEFIELD SITUATION ALSO CONFIRMS CAREFUL ORCHESTRATION OF BATTLEFIELD SITUATION TO SUPPORT PARIS INITIATIVE. IN EFFECT, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT HANOI HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE RISKS INCLUDED IN THEIR SEPTEMBER 26 PROPOSAL ANTICIPATING THAT THEY WILL LAUNCH A SUPPORTING HIGHPOINT DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER WHICH WILL MAXIMIZE THEIR HOLDINGS IN SOUTH VIETNAM BY SEIZING CRUCIAL TERRITORY FOR CONTROL OF RESOURCES, POPULATION AND VITAL TRANSPORTATION ARTERIES. OUR PROBLEM IS TO CAREFULLY ASSESS WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH COMPENSATORY PRESSURES AGAINST HANOI AFTER THE OCTOBER 30 PERIOD WHICH WILL SERVE TO COMPENSATE, FROM HANOI'S PERSPECTIVE, FOR WHAT WILL LIKELY BE A RAPIDLY DECLINING MILITARY ADVANTAGE FOR THEM IN SOUTH VIETNAM. WHETHER ACTIONS AGAINST THE NORTH AND CONCERN FOR A MORE OBVIOUS DEFEAT IN THE SOUTH WILL COUNTERBALANCE THE DELAY IN

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

-2-

REACHING A SETTLEMENT AT A TIME WHEN HANOI'S SECURITY SITUATION IN THE SOUTH IS OPTIMUM IS PROBLEMATIC.

GIVEN THE OTHER SIDE'S MESSAGE, I SEE NO REASON FOR MODIFYING IN ANY WAY THE INTENDED APPROACH TO THIEU. IN FACT, I THINK WE CAN DO SO WITH INCREASED CONFIDENCE THAT OUR ASSESSMENTS ARE SOUND. CONVERSELY, I AM NOT SURE WEYAND HAS CLEARLY GRASPED WHAT MUST BE THE CHARACTER OF THE ENEMY'S OCTOBER HIGHPOINT. FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, THE ENEMY WILL DECIDE IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEXT MEETING WHETHER OR NOT TO LAUNCH THIS OFFENSIVE. IF WE ARE VERY FORTHCOMING AND THEY FEEL WE ARE HEADED FOR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, THEY WILL PROBABLY PROCEED. IF NOT, THEY WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO HUSBAND THEIR DWINDLING RESOURCES. I BELIEVE THIS FACTOR SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN YOUR ASSESSMENT OF NEXT WEEK'S PRESENTATION. I ALSO WILL IMPRESS UPON WEYAND THE ESSENTIALITY OF CAREFULLY ASSESSING THE GVN'S CAPABILITY TO REACT TO A HIGHPOINT, THE CHARACTER OF WHICH WILL NO LONGER BE DESIGNED TO DESTROY THE ARVN BUT RATHER TO OPTIMIZE AREAS OF CONTROL AT THE TIME OF AN OVERALL AGREEMENT. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SHOULD LOOK VERY HARD AT CURRENT DEPLOYMENT OF MARINES AND AIRBORNE ELEMENTS IN NORTHERN MR-1.

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR TO HAIG 8 AND AGREE COMPLETELY.

2-4.
WARM REGARDS
HAIG

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

NNNN

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

EYES ONLY